

**Statement of  
John Arledge  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Governor Haley Barbour**

**August 11, 2004**

“This so-called ‘study’ is nothing more than a political press release. It should be noted that the author of this ‘study’, Leighton Ku, has not been involved in one single meeting regarding Mississippi’s Medicaid waiver request. Governor Barbour is in Washington today in high-level meetings with federal officials to assure that Mississippi receives those federal waivers necessary to help 18,000 of our Medicaid recipients maintain their benefits.

It should also be noted that the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a well-known, left wing, Washington think tank that is closely aligned with the National Democratic Party and the John Kerry Campaign. Leighton Ku was a frequent guest recently at forums around the state co-sponsored by the Mississippi Democratic Party. Leighton Ku has also been linked to other liberal reports such as a 1997 Urban Institute report that questioned the value of enforcing statutory rape laws.

Leighton Ku and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities are not privy to any of the negotiations the state

has had with the federal government and their political motivations regarding this issue should be questioned.”

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